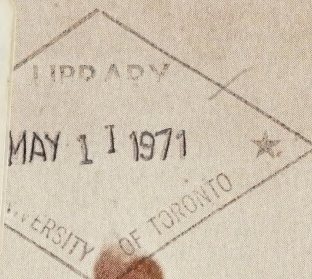


# CANOE ROUTES

North  
Georgian Bay  
Recreational Reserve


CA20N  
LF  
Z101



Ontario



Department of Lands and Forests



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## NORTH GEORGIAN BAY RECREATIONAL RESERVE

Set apart as a large playground by the Province of Ontario in 1963, the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve contains 4,500 square miles of forests and waterways. Lying between Parry Sound and Algoma it includes part of the famous, picturesque Thirty Thousand Islands. Here, gnarled granite bedrock of the Pre-Cambrian Shield form the jumble of shoals, reefs, bays, coves, cliffs and islands and islets, with complicated channels winding between.

Inland, the Reserve is dotted with thousands of lakes, many of which are interconnected by streams and rivers. For a canoeist, an exploration trip up one of the rivers or streams, and around the shorelines of inland lakes, can unfold many pleasant surprises that help to make a memorable vacation.

The area may be reached from the south via highways connecting with Highways No. 11 and 69, and from the west and east via highways connecting with Highway No. 17.

c 1970?





## HISTORY

Early visitors to the North Shore of the Georgian Bay, a land of islands, wooded hills, lakes, rivers and streams, and now known as the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve, were enraptured by the beauty of its rugged scenery. They described it as a "fresh new world." Today, this fresh new world, aptly named by the Huron Indians "Ouendake" or "One Land Apart", retains much of its natural beauty, especially in what is well known as the Thirty Thousand Islands District.

Early visitors were not in search of beauty, however. Samuel de Champlain, who travelled the French River from Lake Nipissing to Georgian Bay in 1615, was not in search of beauty but friendly Indian allies to help the French extend the influence of New France westward.

Among the maze of islands of the North Shore lay the canoe passage leading to the interior of the continent. This area was to become the battleground of those who would control the valuable fur trade, which began with the establishment of European colonies in the eastern part of the continent. Ruins of stone lookouts and forts, at certain strategic sites along the North Shore canoe route, are monuments to the men who perished in raids and fighting in this remote land three centuries ago.

So essential to travel was the canoe passage of the North Shore that, even in times of terrible conflict, it was used by those bound for the interior. Brule, Champlain, Father le Caron, La Salle, Joliet, La Verendrye, Alexander Henry — famous men of North American exploration—all passed this way.

Despite all the traffic to and fro, no European settlement in the area was recorded until 1823. Early settlements were merely posts of the fur trade, the only practical enterprise in this still-savage land.

In 1855, a railway was constructed from Toronto to Collingwood on Georgian Bay to provide easy access to the Upper Lakes and the North Shore. Now, the magnificent stands of white pine in the French River area began to beckon to men who were interested in

something other than the fur trade, war or hunting. Timber was needed in Britain and America for ships and buildings, and the vast pine forests of northern Ontario were called upon to supply the demand. Mills sprang up. One was built at the mouth of the French River, and the forest reverberated to the sound of axes and the thunderous boom of giant pine logs and end-over-ending down the cascading falls and rapids of the French River. At some strategic places along the North Shore, the timbers were made up into great rafts, several acres in size, and towed to ports in Michigan.

Furs and timber were not the only resources that attracted men to the North Shore in those days of pioneer enterprise. The Georgian Bay waters teemed with two highly desirable species of fish, the lake trout and the whitefish. Inevitably, fishing stations sprang up on the North Shore mainland and at scattered locations throughout the Thirty Thousand Islands.

A few settlers, assured of a market for their produce by the logging industry, filtered into the area via the timber trails and squatted on suitable land. However, the homesteader in this rocky region had to depend heavily upon the natural products of the area to survive the early years.

As ownership of land was necessary to the development of agriculture and communities, the systematic surveying of boundary lines was initiated. Colonization roads were laid out and began stretching slowly into the wilderness area. As might be expected, settlement was mainly along the railway lines and newly built wagon roads.

Today, in terms of people per square mile, the population is still sparse. This is understandable. It is still lake and river country.



## PLANNING YOUR TRIP

The following of a water route by canoe is a popular and captivating experience. The canoe routes hereafter described have been used by trappers, explorers and lumbermen; and many were familiar to the Indian tribes who frequented these areas prior to the discovery of North America.

It is not recommended that this form of outdoor adventure be attempted by the novice. Experience in the handling of a canoe in all types of water and wind conditions is necessary. Inexperience can be disastrous. A canoe route necessarily involves making portages. Some are long and arduous over heights of land; others bypass fast water and waterfalls. It is unsafe to attempt the "running" of a rapids unless the canoeist is well experienced in this type of adventure and can recognize danger points.

In addition to the routes listed, there are other less-used courses, as well as side trips. These may be taken by the more experienced trippers who are qualified to lay out their own course and know how to cope with any eventuality that may be met.

The most suitable maps for canoe tripping in the Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve are the National Topographic Series 1:50,000 (1 mile = 1 inch). The required maps are listed after each route and are available at .50¢ each (plus Ontario Sales Tax) from local outfitters or either of the following sources:

Map Distribution Office

Department of Lands and Forests

Whitney Block

Toronto 182, Ontario.

Survey and Mapping Office

Department of Energy, Mines and Resources

615 Booth Street

Ottawa 4, Ontario.

The canoeist must also be equipped with a compass and be able to use it properly.

It is emphasized that these routes lead into wild, undeveloped wilderness. Consequently, all provisions and equipment, sufficient for the whole trip, must be carried. Often, there are no means of communication,





such as roads or telephone lines, once the canoeist has departed from the starting point. The success of the trip depends entirely upon the resourcefulness of the wilderness traveller.

## WHAT TO TAKE

Your personal outfit should include a complete change of clothes from the skin out (woollens recommended), including a heavy shirt and windbreaker jacket, slicker, strong shoes, camp slippers, extra socks, compass, map, waterproof match-box, heavy pocket-knife, flashlight and toilet articles.

## CANOE

Many makes and kinds of canoes are available, but the most popular are the light metal or canvas covered canoes, in 15', 16' and 17' lengths. A well fitting yoke, solidly fastened at the point of balance, would be handy. Canvas covered canoes should be equipped with a repair kit. Do not forget to take a spare paddle.

## TENT

If possible, it should be silk or light silkoline, large enough to accommodate your party comfortably, with space available for duffle, but not larger than 10' x 12', since suitable sites for pitching larger tents are often difficult to find. It should have a mosquito screen. If you don't have a screened tent, you should have individual mosquito bars. Don't forget good mosquito dope and an insect bomb.

## MESS KIT

2; 4; 6; or 8 man outfits are available to fit any ordinary party, and contain necessary cooking and eating utensils. You should add soap, dish towels, candles, toilet paper and matches.

## BED

A light (down or feather) sleeping bag is recommended, although you can get by with a couple of good woollen blankets and a ground sheet.

## TOOLS

Take a 2½ lb. single-bit axe with 26" to 30" handle and sheath, a 6" file and a whet-stone.

## ROPE

Bring 25 to 30 feet of sash cord or heavy clothesline for "tracking" canoe, guying tent, or for clothesline.

## FOOD

### ABOUT EATING

You can eat well if you use care in selecting your food supplies, You will find it well worth while to prepare a complete menu for each meal for each day of the planned trip. Items and quantities can then be accurately checked. The following is given as a check list, and is subject to change to suit individual taste:

Grub List 2 persons, one week — about 40 lbs.

Coffee	1 lb.
Milk	6 sml. cans or 1 lb. powdered
Tea	½ lb.
Kool-Aid	4 pkgs. (or 1 can of lemon juice) to make drinking water more palatable.
Beans	1 lb. pre-cooked.
Bacon	2 lbs.
Dried Beef	½ lb.
Cured Meats	2 lbs.
Add fresh meat for first meals.	
Shortening	1 lb.
Potatoes	4 lbs. or 1 lb. dried
Onions	1 pkg. dried.
Bread	3 loaves
Butter	2 lbs. canned.
Eggs	1½ doz.
Rye-Krisp	1 pkg.
Pepper	1 tin
Salt	¼ lb.
Sugar	3 lbs.
Bisquick	1 pkg.
Pancake flour	1 lb.

Flour	1 lb.
Cornbread mix	2 pkgs.
Dried Fruit	2 lbs.
Raisins	1 lb.
Cheese	2 lbs.
Pudding	3 pkgs.
Minute Rice	1 lb.
Rolled Oats	1 lb.
Soup	4 pkgs. (dry)
Syrup	1 pt.
Jam	1 jar
Cookies	2 lbs.

## PLAN TO FISH

Many species of fish may be caught in the various lakes and rivers throughout the reserve. The canoeist should familiarize himself with the general habitat requirements of the various species of fish listed to be reasonably sure that the species sought may be found in the waters being fished.

A fishing licence is required by non-resident anglers in Ontario. This may be secured from Ranger Headquarters or from private issuers.

## NO HUNTING

Firearms must not be carried in the Provincial Parks within the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve. Hunting is not permitted anywhere in the Reserve during July and August.

## YOUR SAFETY

### FIRST AID KIT

A complete first aid kit should be with each canoe. Life preservers should be worn whenever you are in the canoe. Learn to handle your canoe well before attempting a trip in the interior. Learn to follow map and compass. Employ a guide unless there is at least one experienced woodsman-canoeist in the party. Be able to use your axe correctly, and be careful. It is a long hard trip to a doctor.

### TRAVEL ON GEORGIAN BAY

Only thoroughly experienced canoeists and voyageurs





should undertake travel on Georgian Bay. A party of at least two canoes will add to the safety factor.

### PRIMITIVE CANOE COUNTRY

Many of the portages on the longer routes are presently unmarked and unimproved. When planning your trip, allow extra time for delays caused by weather, time spent locating portages, selecting and preparing campsites. Water levels may fluctuate during the normal canoe season, and some log jams and beaver dams often change from year to year.

Use the portages—there is a reason for them or they would not have been there for hundreds of years. It's foolish to gamble with your supplies, outfit or canoe so far from help.

### RAPIDS

Where there is no portage, a rapids should be examined carefully before being run. Play it safe. If in doubt, "line" your canoe down with your "track rope".

### TRAVEL PERMITS

Permits are required ONLY if a RESTRICTED TRAVEL ZONE has been temporarily imposed as a result of dangerous forest fire hazard conditions. Before setting out, check with a local outfitter or the nearest office of the Department of Lands and Forests. They can advise you of fire hazard conditions, water levels and other information relating to portages, fishing, animal life and points of interest.

### CAMPSITES

Campsites may be selected at various places along the route. Select an open site for your tent. The breeze will be welcome, and mosquitoes will be less troublesome; leave your campsite cleaner than you found it, with a small supply of firewood. Be sure that your fire is DEAD OUT.

You are required by law to construct a campfire on bare rock or mineral soil, with an area of at least three feet in width immediately outside the edge of the fire cleared of all flammable material to bed rock or mineral soil.

### NO SMOKING

Sorry, but Regulations won't allow you to smoke while walking or working in the forest during the fire season. This common sense rule has been followed by experienced woodsmen for years.

### ONE LAST WORD!

BE CAREFUL. — If you have a serious accident, Lands and Forests fire patrol planes are over the area during fire weather in the summer season. A standard ground signal is an SOS, in letters at least ten feet long, or a smudge on the *beach of a lake*.

The SOS call of the wilderness is three signals of any kind, either audible or visible—three whistles, three flashes from a light, etc. The answer to a signal is two audible or visible signals.

### CAMPSITE CLEANLINESS

Clean campsites are a mark of the experienced canoe-tripper who has respect for himself, for others and for the forest.

- 1 Burn all garbage and scorch all tins in the fireplaces.
- 2 Flatten all tins and carry out to proper disposal area.
- 3 A short handled spade or folding digging tool is a must for digging latrines and fire pits.
- 4 Do not dig trenches around your tent.
- 5 Avoid brush beds.
- 6 Remember, unburned garbage attracts bears.

Each campsite must be treated with respect. It is unlawful to cut or damage any living tree. The mutilation and felling of trees on a campsite area are thoughtless practices which only lead to the destruction of the natural environment which you have come to enjoy.

BE SURE YOUR CAMPFIRE IS DEAD  
OUT BEFORE YOU LEAVE.



## CANOE ROUTES

## GEORGE LAKE TO CARLYLE LAKE

*ROUTE 1 — George Lake, O.S.A. Lake, Killarney Lake, Norway Lake, Kakakise Lake, Terry Lake, Carlyle Lake. Distance: 12 miles.*

*Maps:*

*Lake Panache West.*

Starting point of this trip is at George Lake, beside Highway 637 in Killarney Provincial Park. Traverse George Lake to portage trail to O.S.A. Lake; portage approximately 1100 yds. to O.S.A. Lake; proceed to the east end of O.S.A. Lake and portage 600 yds. to Killarney Lake; proceed to the north-east end of Killarney Lake; locate the portage trail to Norway Lake on the north side of the creek that flows between Killarney and Norway Lake; portage 1300 yds. to Norway Lake.

Partridge Lake is accessible from Norway Lake via a 25 yd. trail. From Norway Lake, portage approximately 1100 yds. to the eastern end of Kakakise Lake; from Kakakise Lake portage south-east approximately 700 yds. to Terry Lake; proceed south to Carlyle Lake.



## KILLARNEY LAKE LOOP

*ROUTE 2 – George Lake, Freeland Lake, Killarney Lake, O.S.A. Lake, George Lake. Distance: 12 miles.*

*Maps:*

*Lake Panache West.*

This trip starts at George Lake, beside Highway 637 in Killarney Provincial Park. Proceed to the eastern end of George Lake; portage 65 yds. to Freeland Lake; traverse Freeland Lake to the eastern end and portage 435 yds. via old road to Killarney Lake; proceed to the north-east end of Killarney Lake.

The 400 yard portage to O.S.A. Lake begins from a deep bay in southwest corner of Killarney Lake. The 110 yard portage from O.S.A. to George Lake begins in the most southerly bay of O.S.A. Lake.

## THREENARROWS LAKE LOOP

*ROUTE 3 – George Lake, O.S.A. Lake, Muriel Lake, Artist Creek, Baie Fine, Threenarrows Lake, Killarney Lake, Freeland Lake, George Lake. Distance: 22 miles.*

*Maps:*

*Lake Panache West*

*Whitefish Falls East.*

This trip starts at George Lake beside Highway 637 in Killarney Provincial Park. Portage approximately 1100 yds. to O.S.A. Lake; proceed to the west end of O.S.A. Lake; portage south 200 yds. to Artist Creek; proceed west to Muriel Lake. From Muriel Lake to Baie Fine Lake, several portages will be necessary around shallow stretches of the creek and beaver dams. Locate the portage from Baie Fine Lake to Threenarrows Lake in the northeast end of Baie Fine Lake; portage 1600 yds. via old road to Threenarrows Lake; portage approximately 3500 yds. southeastwards to Killarney Lake and portage via an old road to the eastern end of Freeland Lake; proceed westward to George Lake.



## BELL LAKE LOOP

*ROUTE 4 – Carlyle Lake, Johnnie Lake, David Lake, Balsam Lake, Bell Lake, Johnnie Lake, Carlyle Lake. Distance: 22 miles.*

*Maps:*

*Lake Panache West*

*Lake Panache East.*

The starting point is on the west end of Carlyle Lake, adjacent to Highway 637 in Killarney Provincial Park. Proceed to the eastern end of Carlyle Lake and enter Johnnie Lake via marshy narrows with many stumps and deadheads just beneath the surface; proceed to the northwest bay of Johnnie Lake and follow the West Mahzenazing River to the south end of Bell Lake; proceed along the south shore to the portage a short distance south of David Creek; portage 850 yds. to a navigable stretch of David Creek; portage over a high beaver dam; proceed north-westward to a 205 yd. portage on the right that by-passes a small pond and two beaver dams and terminates at David Lake.

To locate the portage between David Lake and Balsam Lake, follow the north shore and pass through the narrows at the northeast end of David Lake; follow the northwest shore northwesterly to the portage in the most northwesterly bay; portage 675 yds. to Balsam Lake; proceed to the eastern end of Balsam Lake and portage 25 yds. to Bell Lake; proceed to the south end of Bell Lake and portage 360 yds. to Johnnie Lake.

## TYSON LAKE LOOP

*ROUTE 5 – Carlyle Lake, Johnnie Lake, Bell Lake, Grey Lake, Tyson Lake, Mahzenazing River, Carlyle Lake. Distance: 26 miles.*

*Maps:*

*Lake Panache East*

*Lake Panache West.*

The starting point is on the west end of Carlyle Lake, adjacent to Highway 637. Proceed to the eastern end of Carlyle Lake and enter Johnnie Lake via marshy narrows with many stumps and deadheads just

beneath the surface; proceed to the northeast bay of Johnnie Lake which narrows into a shallow creek. A dock on the north side marks the portage to Bell Lake. The portage to Grey Lake is a winter snowmobile trail which leaves Bell Lake from the shallow bay just south of the second narrows. Portage 870 yds. to Grey Lake; proceed to the eastern end of Grey Lake; portage 445 yds. to a boggy pond. The western end of this portage is swampy. Portage on a winter road 1000 yds. to Tyson Lake.

Cross Tyson Lake to the eastern arm and proceed south to the dam at the beginning of the Mahzenazing River; approximately 200 yds. below the dam, make a 40 yd. portage; proceed downstream approximately 1½ miles to a canyon. Low water, here, will necessitate a portage of 640 yds. If portaging via the streambed, extreme caution should be exercised because it is rocky, muddy and slippery. Proceed a short distance to a 35 yd. Portage approximately 1½ miles below the dam. Rock Lake can be reached via a short stream on the left; proceed on the river to Mahzenazing Lake; proceed southwest to dam at the far end of Mahzenazing Lake; portage 230 yds. to the Mahzenazing River; proceed approximately one mile downstream to the forks of the Mahzenazing and West Mahzenazing Rivers. From here, the settlement of Collins Inlet can be reached by proceeding approximately 3½ miles downstream.

To return to Johnnie Lake from the forks, proceed up the West Mahzenazing River to a road approximately 1/2 mile upstream from the forks; portage northwest along this road 880 yds. to by-pass a series of shallows, rapids, and waterfalls. Just below Highway 637, a 2-ft. falls necessitates a short portage; proceed upstream and enter Johnnie Lake via two short portages around an old logging dam; proceed southwest to Carlyle Lake.

#### ALTERNATIVE ROUTE

*Johnnie Lake, David Lake, Balsam Lake, Bell Lake*

From the northwest arm of Johnnie Lake, follow the west Mahzenazing River to the south end of Bell

Lake; proceed along the south shore to the portage a short distance south of David Creek; portage 850 yds. to a navigable stretch of David Creek; portage over a high beaver dam; proceed northwestward to a 205 yd. portage on the right that by-passes a small pond and two beaver dams and terminates at David Lake. Kirk Creek is reached by a good 620 yd. portage located on the south shore at the eastern end of a wide bay, approximately 1½ miles from the eastern end of David Lake.

To locate the portage between David Lake and Balsam Lake, follow the north shore and pass through the narrows at the northeast end of David Lake; follow the northwest shore northwesterly to the portage in the most northerly bay; portage 675 yds. to Balsam Lake; proceed easterly to the eastern end of Balsam Lake, and portage 25 yds. to Bell Lake. Return to Carlyle Lake via Johnnie Lake.

#### SIDE TRIPS

*Tyson Lake to Spoon Lake and Atlee Lake*

### PANACHE LAKE LOOP

*ROUTE 6 – Carlyle Lake, Johnnie Lake, Bell Lake, Balsam Lake, Harry Lake, Panache Lake, Bear Lake, Whitefish River, Lang Lake, Lake Cross, Charlton Lake, Howry Creek, Murray Lake, Howry Lake, Fish Lake, Great Mountain Lake, David Lake, Carlyle Lake. Distance: 64 Miles.*

*Maps:*

*Lake Panache East*

*Lake Panache West*

*Whitefish Falls East.*

The starting point is on the west end of Carlyle Lake adjacent to Highway 637. Proceed to the eastern end of Carlyle Lake and enter Johnnie Lake via marshy narrows with many stumps and deadheads just beneath the surface; proceed to the northeast bay of Johnnie Lake, which narrows into a shallow Creek. A dock on the north side marks the portage to Bell Lake. Portage 360 yds. to Bell Lake; follow the northwest shore and pass through the narrows at the



north end of Bell Lake; proceed along the north shore to the portage in the northwest bay; portage 25 yds. northeasterly to Balsam Lake.

Proceed northeast, following the northwestern shore to the West Mahzenazing River. In the northwest bay of Balsam Lake, a beaver dam marks the location of the West Mahzenazing River. This dam has created a new lake. Lift over the dam and proceed approximately one mile to the widening of the Mahzenazing River. Follow south and western shores and locate the portage to Harry Lake; portage 740 yds. to Harry Lake; proceed to the most northerly bay of Harry Lake; portage 325 yds. over a good portage to Frank Lake; proceed to the long northwesterly bay south of the narrows from where the portage to Panache Lake begins; portage 560 yds. to Panache Lake, proceed to the most southwesterly arm of Panache Lake.

Follow westerly in Lake Panache and portage 200 yards around the dam into Walker Lake. Travel south through Walker Lake to Little Bear Lake and westward through Plunge Lake, Whitefish River and Lang Lake. Two short portages bypass a dam and rapids into Cross Lake.

Below Cross Lake, there is a series of old log dams and a log sluiceway which runs  $3/8$  miles below Cross Lake. A dam and a series of small falls drop 20 feet from Cross Lake. A 100 yd. portage can be made on either side of the river to a small pond. From the southeast side of the pond, a 150 yd. portage can be made to the river below; proceed downstream approximately one mile to a 3 ft. falls; portage 30 yds. around this falls and proceed to **Charlton Lake**. Proceed east on Charlton Lake and enter Howry Creek via the southeast bay; proceed east on Howry Creek. A few shallow stretches and beaverdams necessitate short lift-overs. Approximately four miles east of Charlton Lake, dam holds back the water of Murray Lake; there is also a series of rapids and falls which must be portaged. Portage 230 yds. on the north side to Murray Lake.

Proceed to the east end of Murray Lake and enter Howry Creek. This creek is fairly good for travel but

short lift-overs are necessary at shallows and beaver dams. Proceed to Howry Lake and on to Gem Lake; portage  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles eastward to Fish Lake. Approximately midway along the south shore of Fish Lake, just west of Howry Creek, portage  $\frac{3}{4}$  miles southeast to Great Mountain Lake; proceed eastward on Great Mountain Lake; locate the portage to David Lake in the bay at the east end of the narrows that divides the two main sections of the lake; portage 3500 yds. southeast to David Lake.

Proceed southeast across David Lake to the 205 yd. portage leading to a navigable portion of David Creek. Follow eastward along the creek to the 850 yd. portage to Bell Lake. Follow the south shore of Bell Lake to the 360 yd. portage to Johnnie Lake. Travel through Johnnie Lake and Carlyle Lake to the starting point.

## WHITEFISH RIVER LOOP

*ROUTE 7 — George Lake, Carlyle Lake, Panache Lake, Bear Lake, Whitefish River, Whitefish Falls, Iroquois Bay, Kirk Creek, Baie Fine Lake, O.S.A. Lake, Killarney Lake, Freeland Lake, George Lake. Distance: 70 miles.*

*Maps:*

*Lake Panache East*

*Whitefish Falls East.*

*Lake Panache West*

This trip starts from the George Lake campground beside Highway 637 in Killarney Provincial Park. Proceed northeast over the 2,200 yd. portage to Kakakise Lake and the 700 yd. portage from Kakakise to Carlyle Lake.

Follow the route from Carlyle Lake to Charlton Lake as described in Route 6 above.

Turn west on reaching Charlton Lake and pass through the narrows into the Whitefish River.

Proceed to Frood Lake and traverse to the south end. Here, on the western shore, is a dock, just before the safety boom of the dam. Take the road from the dock to the new highway; proceed south 100 yds. on the highway, and thence east on the old Willisville road to the river below the second dam. This is easier

than portaging the two dams separately. This portage is 1,320 yds. Proceed south to Bay of Islands; follow the eastern shore of Bay of Islands and enter the fourth bay, south of Whitefish Falls, passing under a railway and highway bridge to a short portage into Storehouse Bay. Travel eastward one mile and thence northerly via a short portage into an unnamed lake; then easterly again over a 20 yard portage into Iroquois Bay. Proceed eastward on Iroquois Bay to the north channel of McGregor Bay, north of McGregor Islands. At the eastern end of the north channel, swing southwest between McGregor Island and the mainland; enter the Channel east of Sampson Island and proceed along the coast of the mainland to the mouth of Kirk Creek.

Proceed eastward up Kirk Creek approximately one mile to a 85 yd. portage around a 5½ ft. drop; 1/3 miles beyond, lift over a low beaver dam; proceed 1/2 miles to a 9 ft. drop; portage 40 yds. to a widening of Kirk Creek, 1/2 miles farther, portage 50 yds. around a 6 ft. drop, 1/4 miles upstream, portage 45 yd. around a 6 ft. drop; proceed 1/4 miles to a lift-over. 250 yds. beyond, is a 9 ft. drop. Portage 85 yds. 1/3 miles upstream, is a 3 ft. drop. Portage 25 yds.

Proceed to a dam at the head of Kirk Creek. Portage 45 yds. to Threenarrows Lake; follow the south shore of Threenarrows Lake eastward approximately 1/4 miles to locate an old road which is the portage to Baie Fine Lake. This portage is 1,600 yds. long and the climb is quite steep. From near the south end of the portage, an excellent portage of 5,300 yds. can be followed to O.S.A. Lake. However, a great deal of walking can be avoided by breaking the trip with passable water travel via Artist Creek; proceed south along the east shore of Baie Fine Lake approximately 1/4 miles to the mouth of Artist Creek; a series of beaver dams on Artist Creek necessitates lift-overs and portages; a trail on the south side of the creek, just below the second beaver dam, leads northeastward to a marsh; turn north at the marsh to a navigable portion of the creek. An alternative here is to portage along the north side of the creek.

Proceed eastward along Artist Creek, portaging around beaver dams via the north side of the creek; continue eastward to the east end of Muriel Lake and travel up the creek about 300 yds. Cut north to O.S.A. Lake; proceed to the eastern end of O.S.A. Lake; portage 600 yds. to Killarney Lake; proceed to the southeastern bay of Killarney Lake; portage 435 yds. to Freeland Lake; travel to the southwest end of Freeland Lake to the 65 yd. portage to George Lake.

## WANAPITEI RIVER TO BYNG INLET

*ROUTE 8 – Wanapitei River, Wanapitei Bay, Hartley Bay, Pickerel River, Dollars Lake, Kawigamog Lake, Naganosh Lake, Island Lake, Magnetawan River, Byng Inlet. Approximate distance: 85 miles.*

*Maps:*

*Delamere West*

*Noelville West*

*Delamere East*

*Noelville East*

*Key Harbour West*

*Noganosh West*

*Key Harbour East*

*Noganosh East*

*Mileage*

- 0 Wanapitei River at Highway 637. Portage 150 yds. around rapids.
- 2¾ Rapids; portage.
- 4 Rapids; portage.
- 6 A series of rapids; portage 50 yds. Good campsite here, portage rapid and old bridge 75 yds. Portage stretch of fast water.
- 7½ Bear Chutes; rapids for 300 yds. with 6 ft. drop. The northermost 150 yds. can be pulled through; the bottom 150 yds. must be portaged.
- 8½ Rapids; 3 ft. drop; portage 40 yds.
- 8¾ Sturgeon Chutes; 11 ft. drop; portage 100 yds.
- 10¼ Take the east fork to Wanapitei Bay.
- 13 North end of Wanapitei Bay. The C.N.R. can be reached from here by travelling three miles east through Hartley Bay. The mouth of the Pickerel River can be reached by progressing southward along the east shore of Wanapitei Bay for approximately one mile. Then, take the channel southeasterly into Ox Bay; follow the eastern side of the big islands at the west end of Ox Bay. Cut southeast and follow the south shore

of Ox Bay eastward to the mouth of the Pickerel River.

16 Mouth of the Pickerel River.

19 C.N.R. Settlement of Pickerel River.

28 Highway 69.

36 Falls; 3 ft. drop; portage 65 yds.

36½ Rapids; 2 ft. drop; portage 240 yds.

40 Squaw Lake. For the next six miles, the river is uneventful and winds considerably.

46 Horserace Rapids. The next two miles of river get rougher; the shoreline is higher and frequent rapids are encountered, necessitating portaging and lining.

49 Sand Rapids. The next mile of river gets even rougher; there are shallow rapids for nearly the whole distance; the canoe must be pulled or floated the whole way.

50¼ Portage to Portage Lake. To avoid bad chutes and rapids upriver, portage from the Pickerel River to Dollars Lake (Kawigamog Lake) via the east end of Portage Lake. The north end of the portage is hard to find but it is in fair condition. There are two clearings on the north side of the Pickerel opposite the portage. Portage 880 yds. to Portage Lake, and from the southeast bay 440 yds. to Dollars (Kawigamog) Lake. This latter portage is marked and in good condition.

51 Dollars (Kawigamog) Lake. This lake has fairly low shorelines and a number of cottages. Travel southwest through Ess Narrows to the long eastwest arm. Travel east to Smoky Creek.

61 Portage 200 yds. from Kawigamog Lake to Smoky Creek via the west side of the creek; ¾ miles south, there is a high beaver dam; portage 40 yds. on the east side.

62 Portage 365 yds. from Smoky Creek to Smoky Lake; this portage is marked and in good condition. Travel southwest on Smoky Lake to Naganosh Lake.

65 Smoky Lake and Naganosh Lake have rugged and rocky shores, and there are few cottages.

68 South end of Naganosh Lake. Portage 1760 yds. southeasterly to Sunny Lake.



- 69 Sunny Lake portage 190 yds. from the south Bay of Sunny Lake to a narrow bay of Portage Lake. This is a very beautiful lake with a rugged shoreline. After leaving the bay, swing southwest to the end of the lake and portage 200 yds. to Island Lake.
- 70 Island Lake. This lake has a generally high (20' - 30') rocky shoreline. There are some cottages. Traverse southwesterly on Island Lake to the end of the long southwest arm that narrows to Three Snye Falls, and Rapids.
- 73 Three Snye Falls and Rapids. Drop of 13 ft.; good 120 yds. portage. From here to Byng Inlet, the shore is low, rocky and somewhat abrupt.
- 73¾ Two sets of rapids begin; portage 70 yds.; go across a pool and portage 60 yds.
- 74½ A long series of falls and rapids begins. (Thirty Dollar Rapids) Portaging is necessary. The trail is poor to fair. Portage on the south side, 1¾ miles, crossing the C.N.R.
- 79¼ Farm Rapids and Falls. A series of Falls and rapids for the next mile. Portage 145 yd. around a 14 ft. falls; pull through rapids and portage 125 yds. around a 5 ft. drop.
- 80¾ Falls; 4½ ft. drop; portage 150 yds. either by trail or river bed.
- 81½ Red Pine Rapids. Drop of 2 ft; portage 65 yds.
- 82 Two sets of rapids; the first involves a pull-through; the second is a 25 yd. portage. During high water periods, a 600 yard portage over Highway 69 is necessary.
- 82½ Highway No. 69.
- 85 Byng Inlet.

#### SIDE TRIP

*Naganosh Lake to Still River. Ranger Tower.*  
*Approximate mileage: 5¼.*

- 0 Naganosh Lake. Proceed westward in the long northwest bay of Naganosh Lake and swing southwest to the Still River.
- 2 Dam; 35 ft. drop; good 50 yd. portage.

- 2½ Dam; 6 ft. drop; very rugged portage.
- 3 Shallow water for ¾ miles; portage ¾ miles; banks slippery.
- 4½ Portage south 200 yds. on the east side of the creek; portage around shallow stretches from here to C.N.R.
- 5¼ C.N.R. and Still River Tower. West of the C.N.R. the Still River is very shallow and requires much portaging; not recommended for travel.

## FRENCH RIVER TO KILLARNEY

*ROUTE 9 – French River (Chaudiere Falls), Eastern Outlet (French River). Distance: 45 miles.*

*Maps:*

<i>Noelville East</i>	<i>Key Harbour West</i>
<i>Noelville West</i>	<i>Delamere East</i>
<i>Key Harbour East</i>	<i>Delamere West</i>

The starting point is below the Chaudiere Dam on the French River; it is called “Chaudiere” (French for “kettle”) because of the number of small, water-worn holes in the rock.

In 1821, J.J. Bigsby, medical doctor and geologist, reported the ruins of an Indian Fort beside Chaudiere Falls. It was probably built as a lookout when Indian wars were commonplace. He also reported Indian drawings—primitive sketches of animals and men in various positions.

Approximately ¼ miles below Chaudiere Dam, the Lower Chaudiere Rapids with a drop of 8 ft. necessitates a 250 yd. portage on the north side. About ¼ miles farther downstream on the north side of the channel, opposite to Keso Point, is the site of ancient indian rock paintings. At least one of these vermilion paintings can be detected today.

Below the channel, the French widens, assuming, for the next eight miles, the aspect of a long narrow lake with innumerable islands and deep bays. At the western end of this long, lake-like stretch of river, the French divides into North Channel and Main Channel. The entrance to the Main Channel is on the northwest side of Commanda Island. Little Pine Rapids is

encountered upon entering the Main Channel, which is narrow at this point. The French now takes on more the personality of a river than a continuous lake. Rapids are frequent; the shores are uneven and rocky, rising into low hills.

Portage 50 yds. on the north side around Little Pine Rapids; continue southwest approximately 1/2 miles and portage 125 yds. around Big Pine Rapids; the portage is on the north side. The river widens for 1/2 miles and then turns abruptly to the southeast. Here, Dauble Rapids, which requires no portaging unless water conditions are low, is encountered. The river continues southeast approximately 1/2 miles, swings abruptly to the west, and narrows to a rapid named Blue Chute. The portage around Blue Chute is on the north side, 150 yds. in length and very rough going. The best way is to avoid Blue Chute entirely by coming through the Ladder. This is done by locating a channel on the west side of the river about 300 yds. below Dauble Rapids. The Ladder consists of a pull-over for 15 yds. and a 25 yd. carry. Approximately 3/4 miles down-river is Little Parisien Rapids; portage 125 yds. on the north side; 1/2 miles downriver, a rapid is encountered between a long island and the south bank, and 1/4 mile farther another rapid. Travel through these in both directions might be possible. 1 1/4 miles farther downstream, Crooked Rapids might possibly be navigated in both directions, as the drop is slight.

On the point of Parisien Island, five miles below Crooked Rapids, high on the hill and within sight of the river, a stone cross and a dilapidated wooden cross can be observed. From one camp of Indians in the district, comes the story that these crosses mark the site where some missionaries were burned alive at the stake. Priests commemorated the place with a stone cross and held services there. From another group of Indians comes the story that the Jesuits merely held services on this island.

Proceed approximately eight miles down river; pass north of Cantin Island; swing south between Cantin Island and Four Mile Island; follow the south shore of Cantin Island westward and enter the Main Channel

of the French near the south end of Dry Pine Bay, 3/4 miles down river is the C.P.R. overpass, and another 3/4 miles farther, Highway No. 69 overpass. There is a plaque, situated at this highway crossing, denoting the French River as Canada's ancient "Trans-Canada highway", and listing the names of famous people who used this route. One mile below the highway is Recollet Falls with a 7 ft. drop and a dangerous whirlpool and underflow at its foot.

Portage around Recollet Falls via an excellent portage with a ramp. 3/4 miles downriver is First Rapid. The drop is slight and might possibly be navigable, depending upon water conditions. A few miles downstream, a short distance past Flowerpot Bay, another rapid is encountered. The drop here is slight, but dangerous rocks are present. Portaging might be necessary. No portages are specifically noted around some of the rapids on the French. Look these over very cautiously. If there is the slightest concern about their navigability, use discretion and portage or line through.

Two miles west of Flowerpot Bay, the C.N.R. crosses the French. Proceed to the bay east of Canal Island (Ox Bay). Follow westward along the south shore and turn south into the eastern Outlet, located south of the eastern end of Canal Island. Approximately four miles downriver, the Eastern Outlet is joined by the Main Outlet from the North. Follow the Eastern Outlet south and pass through Bass Lake. Approximately one mile south of Bass Lake, a rapid is encountered. Portage via a 220 yd. tramway. A lodge is situated here. Approximately 1/2 miles down river is the North Channel of Georgian Bay. Return up the French to Highway No. 69 or proceed to Killarney.

## ALTERNATIVE ROUTES

### *French River to Georgian Bay*

1 Starting at the head of the French River, travel down the Little French River. Five Fingers Rapid must be portaged.

2 Travel by way of the North Channel instead of the

South Channel. This route has fewer rapids and is reported to be an easier though longer route.

3 In the southern portion of the river, travel the Main Outlet.

4 The Western Channel offers a maze of alternate routes at its mouth. The famous Devil's Door can be avoided by taking an easier Channel just to the right of it.

Remember: Study your map and know what conditions to expect on the river head. Some of the rapids on the French, although they might appear easy, are very dangerous.

*Eastern Outlet to Killarney.*

*Distance: 40 miles*

The shoreline of Georgian Bay is cut up with many points, bays and islands. The very inner route is necessary when there is any wind. Portaging may be necessary.

Ample rations must be carried to allow for long or frequent delays caused by rough weather. Georgian Bay waters do get rough. Weather and water conditions can change very suddenly. Stay close to the coast and avoid crossing wide open stretches between points.

There are numerous shoals to be encountered off Point Grondine. These are dangerous but do afford some protection from wind. The stretch of water around Point Grondine between the mainland and the "Chickens" should be attempted *only* on a calm day, in early morning or early evening.

Upon arriving at Beaverstone Bay, proceed to the north end of the bay and follow Collins Inlet and the coast to Killarney.

## **WAHWASHKESH LAKE LOOP**

*ROUTE 10 – Byng Inlet, Magnetawan River, Island Lake, Wahwashkesh Lake, Maple Lake, Bolger Lake, Kashegaba Lake, Trout Lake, South Magnetawan Channel, Big Bay, Lone Tree Lake, Naiscoot Lake, Charles Inlet. Approximate distance: 79 miles.*



*Maps:*

*Key Harbour East*  
*Noganosh Lake East*  
*Noganosh Lake West*

*Point au Baril East*  
*Point au Baril West*  
*Naiscoot River East*

- 0 Byng Inlet.
- 2¼ Two sets of rapids; the first involves a 25 yd. portage, the second a pull-through.
- 3¾ Falls; 4½ ft. drop; portage 150 yds. by trail or river bed.
- 4½ Farm Rapids and Falls. A series of falls and rapids for the next mile; portage 145 yds. around a 14 ft. falls; pull through rapids and portage 125 yds. around a 5 ft. drop.
- 9 Thirty Dollar Rapids. A long series of falls and rapids begins; portaging is necessary; the portage trail is on the south side.
- 10¾ Two sets of falls and rapids; portage 60 yds. Cross the pool and portage 70 yds.
- 11½ Three Snye Falls and Rapids. Drop of 13 ft.; good 120 yd. portage into the south-west arm of Island Lake.
- 12 Island Lake. This is a scenic lake with generally high (20' - 30') rock shoreline. There are few cottages, Traverse northeast on Island Lake to the narrows just north of the island-dotted east bay. Follow the channel east to the Magnetawan River.
- 15 Stovepipe Rapids on the Magnetawan River. Drop 2½ feet; good 75 yd. portage.
- 16 Mountain Chute. Drop 4 ft.; good 144 yd. portage. Rapids a short distance below. Mountain Chute necessitates a 35 yd. portage.
- 19 Trout Lake. This is a very beautiful lake with rocky shoreline and low rolling hills.
- 21½ Grave Rapids. Portage from Trout Lake to Wahwashkesh Lake. There is a long series of rapids which could be portaged individually at low water, but they are more easily portaged in high water 3500 yds. along a road in excellent condition.
- 23 Wahwashkesh Lake, also known as Deer Lake. This is a lovely lake; many cottages. From the mouth of Deep Bay, travel south-east two miles

and swing west into Indian Narrows; follow Indian Narrows south-west. Travel south to Ritter Narrows and follow the west shore in a south-westerly direction to the end of a narrow bay. Portage to Maple Lake.

- 30 Portage between Wahwashkesh Lake and Maple Lake. This is a good 210 yd. portage. Maple Lake is a very beautiful lake; shoreline rugged.
- 31½ Portage from Maple Lake to Portage Bay. The portage starts from the north-west bay; portage beside creek 25 yds. to unnamed lake. From the west end of unnamed lake to Portage Bay, there is a good 935 yd. portage.
- 32½ Portage Bay.
- 34 Kashegaba Lake, lovely lake; several cottages.
- 35 Dam at south end of creek to White Lake; 11 ft. drop; good 35 yd. portage.
- 35½ White Lake.
- 37 Portage to trout Lake. Portage from creek north of White Lake to Trout Lake; 330 yds. on west side.
- 40 Entrance to South Magnetawan Channel.
- 43½ Falls and rapids; portage 350 yds. on north side.
- 43¾ C.N.R. Railway.
- 45 Big Bay.
- 48 Portage from south end of Big Bay east to Clear Lake; very rough 300 yd. portage. Portage from the end of Clear Lake 395 yds. to Lavenia Lake and from Lavenia Lake 190 yds. over steep trail to Lone Tree Lake.
- 49 Lone Tree Lake. Reach Evans Lake via small lakes and connecting creeks; two portages; 50 yds. and 240 yds.
- 49½ Portage from southwest arm of Evans Lake for 600 yds. to Naiscoot Lake.
- 50 Little Wilson Lake.
- 57 Naiscoot Lake and Highway 69 crossing.
- 57½ Entrance to Naiscoot River. Portages and lift-overs are necessary at several log bridges, beaver dams and log jams between here and Harris River.
- 62 Junction of Naiscoot River and Harris River; the current is swift here.

67 Charles Inlet, Georgian Bay. Reach Charles Inlet by the shallow main channel of the Naiscoot River.

79 Byng Inlet.

*Alternative Route Between Trout Lake and Portage Bay.*

Approximately 1/3 mile west of the east end of Trout Lake, a creek connects with White Lake. Portage 330 yds. south on the west side of the creek. Between White Lake and Kashegaba Lake, a portage around a beaver dam might be necessary. To enter Kashegaba Lake, portage around a dam with a 11 ft. drop. Proceed south to Portage Bay.

## SIDE TRIPS

(1) Wahwashkesh Lake to Gooseneck Lake; portage 85 yds.

(2) Portage Bay, Bolger Lake, Miskokway Lake. From Portage Bay, follow Bolger Creek southwest to Bolger Lake. From the middle of the west end of Bolger Lake, portage 2300 yds. via road to Miskokway Lake. The portage to Little Wilson and Naiscoot Lakes is difficult to find and follow.

## HOW TO LIVE OFF THE COUNTRY

In an emergency, experienced woodsmen can survive without discomfort on a diet of natural edibles which grow in the woods. Wild fruits are easily gathered and most delicious in season. Look for strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, gooseberries, blueberries, and currants, Patridge berries, cowberries, bunchberries and the berries of mountain ash and honeysuckle may be important as supplements to the limited diet.

Many common plants, young roots and the new growth on many tree limbs are edible and nourishing. They may be eaten raw, too.

The roots of cattails and water lilies and many common water plants should be roasted over an open fire. Boil the leaves of sow thistle, stinging nettle,

ostrich fern, lamb's quarters, marsh marigold, chickweed, chicory, dandelion, shepherd's purse, plantain and trillium. These many foods relieve monotony as well as hunger.

Two common mushrooms are good to eat and distinguishable from poisonous kinds. The edible two are puffballs, more common in the fall among hardwood trees and brush; and shaggy manes, long, pointed and pulpy and growing everywhere. Consult the excellent book, **Poisonous and Edible Mushrooms**, Queen's Printer, Ottawa, 1967.

Clams and crayfish and snails are easy to find in most areas; they should be roasted over an open fire or fried on a hot pan or stone. Birds and small animals are often available. Birds' eggs may become an important food item.

So many foods offer variety but the most satisfactory food is an emergency diet is fresh fish. For this reason, woodsmen often carry reserve tackle on their person; it is likely to be quite as important as water-proofed matches.

## **CANOE SENSE**

**KNOW CANOE:** Canoes are different; each one has its limitations. Know yours.

**GO LIGHT:** Weight reduces response to paddle.

**LOAD LOW:** Keep the centre of gravity as low as possible. That goes for your own centre of gravity too.

**SHIFT EASY:** Take care when entering or leaving canoe. A slip in time spills all.

**LOOK SHARP:** When rocks appear, many more may be slightly submerged. Canoes are fragile; rocks are hard.

**WATCH SKY:** When a storm threatens, head for shore at once. Waves can build up quickly on a small lake.

## **SWIM SENSE**

**GANG UP:** Never swim alone; see that friends are handy. The safety is mutual.

WADE IN: Be cautious in strange waters. Do not drive before checking for under water obstructions.  
BE MODEST: Do not swim across lake without an escort. Water miles are deceiving.

SWIM NOW: Eat later.

LEARN NOW: Every swimmer should know how to apply artificial respiration.

HANG ON: If canoe swamps or capsizes, do not try to swim to shore, "It's farther than you think". Stay with canoe.

For additional information concerning the North Georgian Bay Recreational Reserve, contact any of the following:

The District Forester, Dept. of Lands and Forests,  
Sudbury or Parry Sound, Ontario.

The Chief, Parks Branch,  
Dept. of Lands and Forests  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario.

## LAKES AND RIVERS

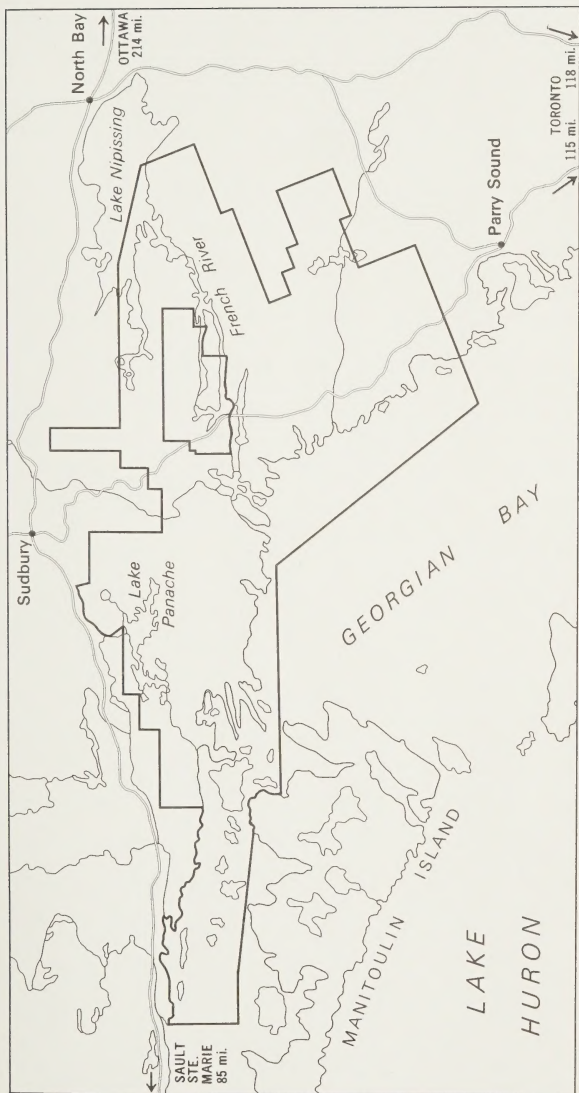
### FISH

Balsam Lake	Northern Pike
Bassoon Lake.	
Bear Lake.	Bass, Pickerel, Pike
Bell Lake.	
Boundary Lake.	Largemouth Bass.
Carlyle Lake.	Pike, Bass.
Charlton Lake.	
David Lake.	
Frank Lake.	Pike, Bass.
Freeland Lake.	Northern Pike.
French River.	
Grey Lake.	Northern Pike. Bass
George Lake	Pickerel, Perch.
Harry Lake.	Pike, Bass.
High Lake.	
Howry Lake.	Pike, Bass.



Johnnie Lake.	Pike, Bass, Pickerel
Kawigamog Lake.	Pike, Bass, Pickerel
Killarney Lake.	Lake Trout, Smallmouth Bass.
Lang Lake.	Bass, Pike, Pickerel.
Magnetawan River.	Pike, Bass, Pickerel.
Mahzenazing River.	Bass, Pickerel, Pike, Perch.
Maple Lake.	Bass.
Miskokway Lake.	Lake Trout.
Muriel Lake.	
Murray Lake.	Perch, Pickerel, Bass.
Naiscoot Lake.	Pike, Bass, Pickerel.
Nellie Lake.	
Noganosh Lake.	Bass, Pickerel.
Norway Lake.	Lake trout, Smallmouth Bass.
O.S.A. Lake.	Lake trout, Smallmouth Bass.
Panache Lake.	
Partridge Lake.	Smallmouth Bass.
Pickerel River.	Pickerel, Pike, Bass.
Rock Lake.	Pike, Pickerel.
Squaw Lake.	Bass, Pickerel.
Threenarrows Lake.	Pike, Bass, Pickerel, Perch.
Trout Lake.	Pike, Bass, Pickerel.
Tyson Lake.	Northern Pike, Bass, Pickerel, Lake Trout.
Wahwashkesh Lake.	Pickerel, Lake Trout, Bass.
Wanapitei River.	Pickerel, Pike, Bass.

Blank spaces indicate lakes for which information is lacking.









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